



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

SPL232 Linguistic landscapes in Gothenburg, 7.5 credits

Göteborgs språkliga landskap, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Languages and Literatures on 2016-06-15 and was last revised on 2019-12-16 to be valid from 2020-08-31, autumn semester of 2020.

Field of education: Arts 100%

Department: Department of Languages and Literatures

Position in the educational system

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Master's Programme in Language and Intercultural Communication (H2SIK), 2) Critical Studies, Master's Programme (H2KST), 3) Master's Programme in Languages and Linguistics (H2SPV) and 4) Master's Programme in Swedish as a Second Language (H2SVA)

Main field of studies

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Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

90 credits in a main field of study with successive specialisation including an independent project or the equivalent.

Furthermore, language skills corresponding to English A/English 6 are required

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- describe what languages appear where and to what extent in the public urban space (mainly in Gothenburg);
- give an account of central concepts, theories and methods of relevance for the study of linguistic landscapes;

Competence and skills

- within a given time frame, carry out brief visual documentation and a short written analysis of the linguistic landscape;
- by means of central concepts, theories and methods in linguistic landscape studies discuss why different languages are used in different inscriptional genres, media and spaces;

Judgement and approach

- reflect on his/her own place and role in the city and how this influences the view of the different languages and language users that circulate in the city;
- account critically for the context dependence and ambiguity of individual languages, signs and inscriptions by placing the linguistic landscape in a larger socio-economic and historical context.

Course content

The course provides the student with linguistic and ethnographic tools to show and discuss social meanings connected to language, texts and symbols in the public urban space. This is done partly by introducing the interdisciplinary study of linguistic landscapes (Linguistic Landscapes), partly by letting the students carry out a study of linguistic landscapes (mainly in Gothenburg). Throughout, the course emphasises how linguistic resources in signs and urban inscriptions interact with other meaning-making resources (e.g. colour, image, typography, material and architecture) in the creation of cultural, social and spatial ideas and identities. By continuously asking how society, culture and identity are represented and recreated in the linguistic landscape, the course attempts to raise awareness of multilingual and multi-modal communication in public urban spaces and to encourage critical reflection of how global flows and processes influence local places.

Form of teaching

The course consists of a combination of lectures, seminars and fieldwork.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The intended learning outcomes of the course are assessed through (1) visual documentation of a part or aspect of the linguistic landscape, (2) production and presentation of a poster (or the equivalent which is decided in consultation with the teacher), and (3) an individual take-home examination.

A student who has failed a course item is eligible for a retake exam/assignment. In connection with written assignments, supplementary assignments may be offered in order for the student to achieve a Pass grade. Such a supplementary assignment should be done within the stipulated time (normally five working days after the result has been posted). Otherwise a Fail grade will be reported.

A student who has completed an exam/assignment with a passing grade is not eligible for a retake for the purpose of receiving a higher grade. Nor may a student withdraw a test/assignment once it has been submitted for the purpose of avoiding receiving a grade for the work.

If a student who has been failed on the same examining course component twice wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, a request of this kind shall be sent in writing to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary. (Chapter 6, Section 22, Higher Education Ordinance).

In case the course has been discontinued or undergone any larger changes the student is guaranteed access to at least three additional examination sessions (including regular examination sessions) within the time of at least one year. As regards internships/placement the same as above applies, with the exception that examination is offered on only one occasion.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). To receive the grade Pass with distinction on the whole course, a Pass with distinction is required on the individual take-home examination (examination part 3).

Course evaluation

The students are given the opportunity to make a written evaluation of the course. The results of the evaluation are published digitally.

Additional information

Participation in the course assumes that the student has access to a digital camera or mobile phone that can be used as a camera.

Equality aspects should be taken into consideration in content, literature, teaching and evaluation.